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# PADMAVATI

*A Tale from Vetala Panchavimshati*



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# PADMAVATI

PRINCE MUKUTA-SHEKHARA OF VARANASI WAS OUT ON A HUNT ONE DAY. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS CLOSE COMPANION, THE MINISTER'S SON.



SUDDENLY, IN A CLEARING IN THE JUNGLE THEY CAME UPON A TANK.



LET US  
REFRESH OUR-  
SELVES AND WORSHIP  
AT THE TEMPLE.

THEY WASHED THEIR HANDS AND FEET...



...AND WENT INTO THE TEMPLE.





WHILE THEY WERE IN THE TEMPLE A PRINCESS AND HER RETINUE CAME TO A HALT ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE.

HOW BEAUTIFUL AND PEACEFUL THIS PLACE IS! NOT A SOUL IN SIGHT. WE WILL REST HERE FOR A WHILE AND THEN GO ON.



AS THEY RELAXED UNDER THE TREES THE PRINCESS SUDDENLY CALLED OUT TO ONE OF HER MAIDS.

BRING ME ONE OF THOSE FLOWERS FOR MY HAIR.



THE MAID PICKED THE FLOWER AND FIXED IT BEHIND THE EAR OF THE PRINCESS.





A MOMENT LATER—

WHAT A  
BEAUTIFUL  
GIRL! WHO  
COULD  
SHE BE?

AS MUKUTA-SHEKHARA  
STARED AT HER  
FASCINATED, THE  
PRINCESS DID A  
STRANGE THING. SHE  
REMOVED THE  
FLOWER FROM  
BEHIND HER EAR...

...BIT INTO ITS STALK...

...PLACED IT UNDER  
HER FOOT...

...AND PRESSED IT TO HER  
HEART.



THEN—

COME,  
MY GIRLS.  
WE ARE LATE.  
WE WILL NOW  
RESUME OUR  
JOURNEY  
HOMEWARDS.

WHAT IS THE  
MEANING OF  
HER STRANGE  
BEHAVIOUR? WAS  
SHE TRYING  
TO TELL ME  
SOMETHING?

WHEN THEY HAD GONE THE MINISTER'S SON CAME OUT OF THE  
TEMPLE.

SHE HAS  
GONE! SHE HAS  
STOLEN MY HEART  
AND I DON'T EVEN  
KNOW WHO SHE IS.

WHO HAS  
GONE?

THE MOST  
BEAUTIFUL  
MAIDEN ON  
EARTH. IF  
I CANNOT  
MARRY HER,  
I DON'T WANT  
TO LIVE.



WELL, NOTHING CAN BE GAINED BY STANDING HERE. LET US RETURN HOME AND SEE WHAT WE CAN DO.



BACK AT THE PALACE—

DID SHE SAY ANYTHING TO YOU?

NO. NOTHING.



THE MINISTER'S SON STROKED HIS CHIN THOUGHTFULLY.

DID SHE MAKE ANY SIGNS? WAS THERE ANYTHING OUT OF THE WAY THAT SHE DID?

OH! YES! THERE WAS.



MUKUTA-SHEKHARA TOLD HIS FRIEND ALL ABOUT THE STRANGE ACTIONS OF THE PRINCESS.

THAT EXPLAINS EVERYTHING. BY REMOVING THE LOTUS FROM BEHIND HER EAR, (KARNA) AND BITING IT WITH HER TEETH, (DANTA) SHE MEANT TO LET YOU KNOW THAT SHE WAS THE DAUGHTER OF KING DANTAVAT OF KARNATAKA...





...AND BY PLACING THE LOTUS, THAT IS PADMA, UNDER HER FOOT SHE INDICATED THAT HER NAME WAS PADMAVATI.



WHY DID SHE PRESS IT TO HER HEART?

TO LET YOU KNOW THAT YOU DWELL IN HER HEART, MEANING SHE LOVES YOU.



MUKUTA-SHEKHARA WAS ELATED.

WHERE IS SHE NOW? WILL YOU TAKE ME TO HER?

I WILL GO AND EQUIP YOURSELF WITH ARMS AND JEWELS. WE WILL LEAVE THIS VERY DAY.



AFTER TRAVELLING FOR MANY DAYS THEY REACHED THEIR DESTINATION—THE CAPITAL OF KARNATAKA.

LET US RIDE INTO THE CITY. WE CAN MAKE DISCREET ENQUIRIES THERE.





AS THEY NEARED THE PALACES OF KING DANTAVAT, HIS QUEEN AND THEIR DAUGHTER—



THEY APPROACHED HER.

MOTHER, COULD YOU HELP US FIND SOME LODGINGS? WE ARE STRANGERS TO THIS CITY.

THEY SEEM TO BE OF NOBLE BIRTH AND I WILL HAVE SOMEONE TO TALK TO. I WILL OFFER THEM MY OWN HOME.

MY HOME IS OPEN TO YOU, MY SONS. YOU MAY STAY WITH ME AS LONG AS YOU WISH.





WHEN THEY WERE RESTED AND REFRESHED THE OLD WOMAN STOOD AT THE DOOR OF THE ROOM SHE HAD GIVEN THEM.

SEE! I TOLD YOU SHE WOULD COME!



I HOPE YOU ARE COMFORTABLE.

WE ARE, MOTHER. COME. SIT DOWN. TELL US ALL ABOUT YOURSELF. WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING APART FROM SPINNING?



THE OLD WOMAN MADE HERSELF COMFORTABLE. THEN —

I USED TO BE PRINCESS PADMAYATI'S NURSE. NOW SHE DOES NOT NEED ME ANY LONGER. I AM TOO OLD. I GO TO SEE HER ONCE A DAY, THOUGH.





MUKUTA-SHEKHARA COULD HARDLY BELIEVE HIS GOOD LUCK.

MOTHER! WHEN YOU GO TOMORROW WILL YOU TAKE A MESSAGE FROM ME TO HER?

PADMAVATI!  
THE OLD WOMAN CHUCKLED.

WILL YOU, MOTHER? THEN TELL HER THIS: "THE PRINCE YOU SAW AT THE TANK IS HERE."

WHY WAIT TILL TOMORROW? COME, GIVE ME YOUR MESSAGE. I WILL TAKE IT TO HER RIGHT AWAY.

THE OLD WOMAN TOOK HER STICK AND HOBbled OFF TO PADMAVATI.



AFTER SHE GAVE THE MESSAGE—

HE IS WORTHY OF YOU IN EVERY WAY...

WERE YOU ASKED FOR YOUR OPINION?





THEN, PRETENDING TO BE ANGRY, PADMAVATI SLAPPED THE OLD WOMAN WITH BOTH HER HANDS.



I HAVE NEVER SEEN HER BEHAVE LIKE THIS. WELL, IF SHE DOES NOT WANT TO MARRY THE PRINCE WHY SHOULD I CARE?



THE OLD WOMAN HOBBOLED BACK TO MUKUTA-SHEKHARA AND TOLD HIM ALL. THE DEJECTED PRINCE TURNED TO HIS COMPANION.

YOUR INTERPRETATION PROVES TO HAVE BEEN WRONG.

QUITE THE CONTRARY. YOU HAVE NOT UNDERSTOOD.



BY SLAPPING THE OLD WOMAN'S FACE WITH ALL TEN FINGERS SHE MEANT TO SAY THAT SHE WOULD MEET YOU TEN DAYS HENCE.

OF COURSE, THAT'S WHAT SHE MEANT! YOU ARE CLEVER, MY SON.

I ALWAYS KNEW SHE WAS A DEEP ONE.





TEN DAYS LATER—

MOTHER, PRINCESS PADMAVATI HAS PROMISED TO SEE ME TODAY. WILL YOU FIND OUT WHEN AND WHERE I SHOULD MEET HER?

I WILL GO THIS VERY MOMENT, SON.

BUT WHEN THE OLD WOMAN QUESTIONED THE PRINCESS—

WILL YOU NEVER LEAVE ME ALONE? COME HERE.

FEIGNING ANGER, PADMAVATI LED THE OLD WOMAN TO A LITTLE WICKET GATE.

OUT WITH YOU! DON'T YOU DARE SHOW ME YOUR FACE AGAIN.

THE OLD WOMAN CAME BACK TO MUKUTA-SHEKHARA AND THE MINISTER'S SON, AND TOLD THEM WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

NOW I WILL NOT GO TO HER EVEN IF YOU BEG ON YOUR KNEES.



WHEN THE OLD WOMAN LEFT—

THIS TIME THERE  
COULD BE NO  
IMPLIED MEANING  
IN WHAT SHE DID  
AND SAID.



YOU ARE WRONG.  
IT'S SIMPLE. SHE  
WANTS YOU TO GO  
TO HER TONIGHT  
THROUGH THAT  
SAME WICKET  
GATE.



THAT NIGHT—

THIS WAY.

I'M  
NERVOUS.



THEY SOON REACHED THE SPOT.

GOOD LUCK,  
MY PRINCE.



PADMAVATI WAS THERE, WAITING.

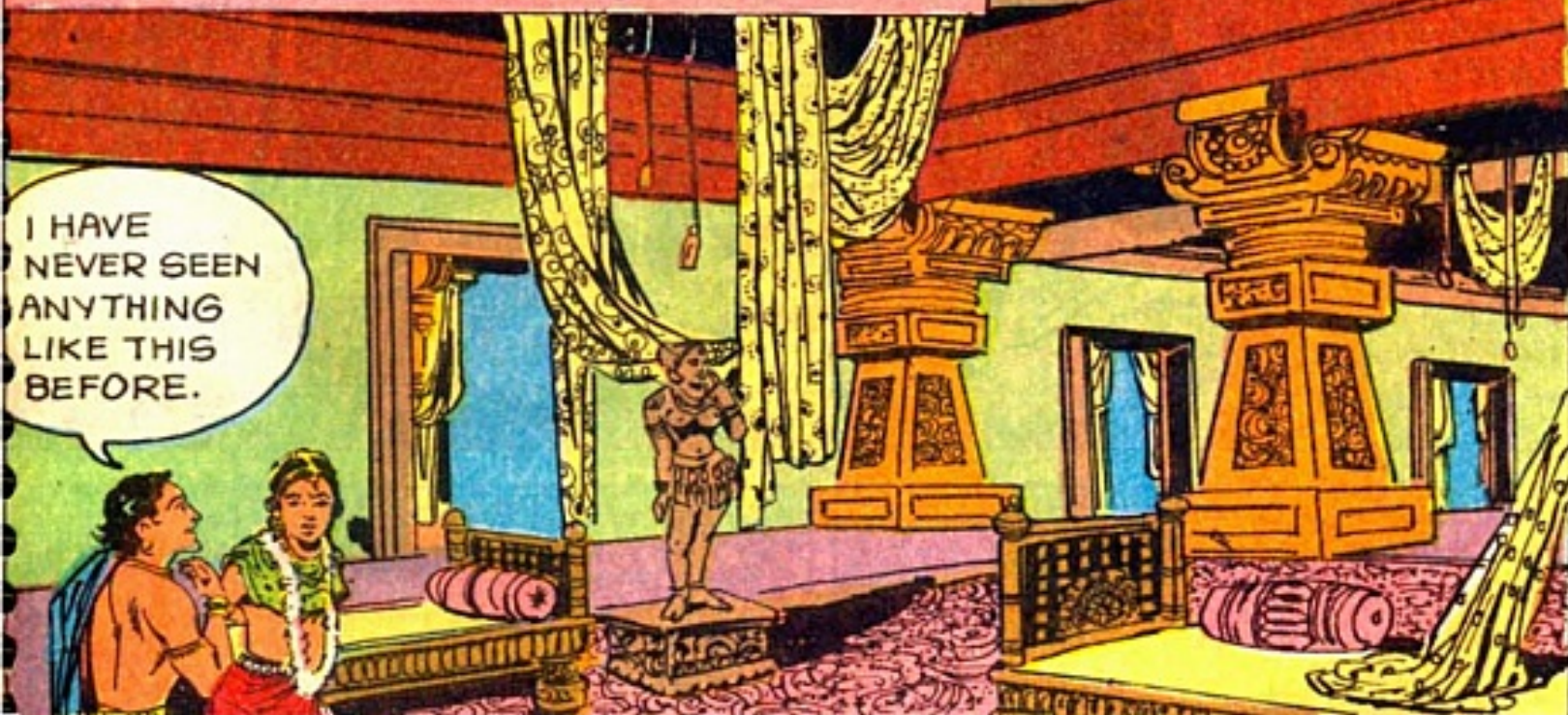
COME, MY  
BELOVED.





PADMAVATI LED MUKUTA-SHEKHARA TO HER PALACE AND INTO HER ROOMS.

I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE.

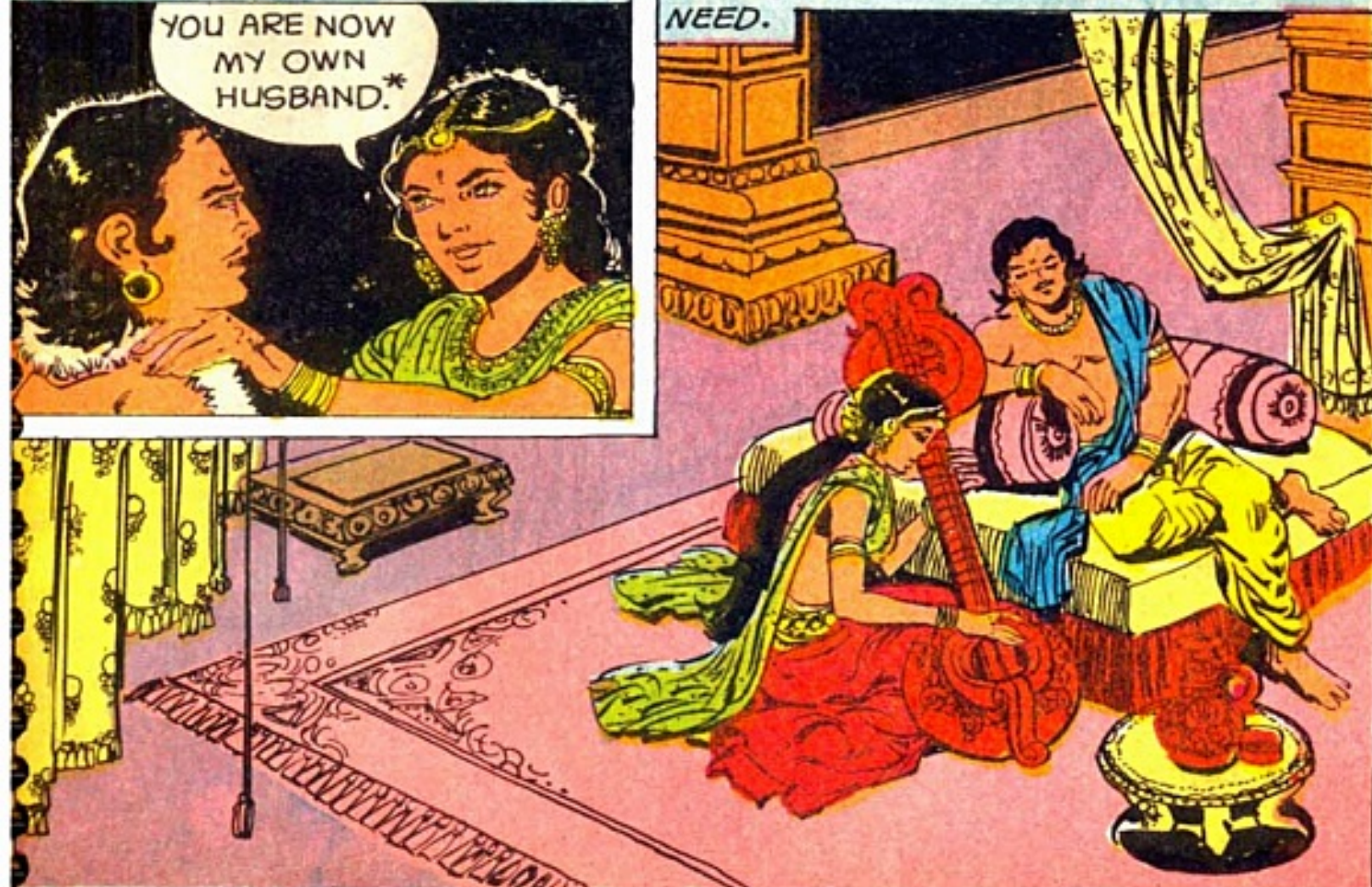


PADMAVATI THEN REMOVED THE GARLAND FROM HER NECK AND —

YOU ARE NOW MY OWN HUSBAND.\*



PADMAVATI WAS DEVOTED TO MUKUTA-SHEKHARA AND ATTENDED TO HIS EVERY NEED.



THIS TYPE OF MARRIAGE WAS CALLED GANDHARYA MARRIAGE AND WAS RECOGNISED BY SOCIETY.



**BUT A FEW DAYS LATER—**

PADMAVATI, I HAVE STAYED HERE LONG ENOUGH. COME, LET US RETURN TO MY KINGDOM.

NO. LET US STAY HERE. MY FATHER CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT ME.

**MUKUTA-SHEKHARA LET THE MATTER REST FOR A WHILE.**

WELL. I'LL INDULGE HER FOR A FEW MORE DAYS. GRADUALLY, SHE WILL GIVE IN.

**LATER HE TRIED AGAIN.**

PADMAVATI, I MUST RETURN TO MY KINGDOM. COME, LET US LEAVE TODAY.

NOT YET, PRINCE. GIVE ME A FEW DAYS MORE.

**SEVERAL TIMES DID THE PRINCE TALK ABOUT RETURNING AND AS MANY TIMES DID PADMAVATI DISSUADE HIM. ONE DAY—**

IT IS WELL OVER A MONTH NOW. AND YET MY LOVE HOLDS ME A PRISONER.





THAT EVENING —

IT IS BAD ENOUGH BEING AWAY FROM MY HOME AND PEOPLE. BUT TO BE AWAY FROM MY COMPANION FOR SO LONG! WHAT MUST HE BE THINKING OF ME? IS HE ALL RIGHT? HOW DO I KNOW?



AT THAT MOMENT PADMAVATI ENTERED THE ROOM AND SAW HIM.

DEAR PRINCE, WHY ARE YOU SO DEJECTED?

I HAVE A FRIEND WHO IS DEARER TO ME THAN LIFE ITSELF. IN FACT, IT WAS HE WHO EXPLAINED YOUR SECRET LANGUAGE TO ME. I LONG TO SEE HIM.



PADMAVATI WAS SEIZED BY A FIT OF DEEP JEALOUSY.

IN SPITE OF ALL MY ATTENTIONS IT IS HIS FRIEND THAT HE LONGS FOR. WELL, I'M LUCKY THAT I KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH SUCH A SITUATION.





**Leo heroes have  
more fun.  
Are you one?**



**Lay-An-Egg**

7 years upward  
Tap the button quick, quick,  
and capture the most eggs!  
Battery-operated.



**Dare Devil**

2-5 years  
Friction-powered fire engine. Be a  
fearless fire-fighter!



**Land Cruiser**

3 years upward  
Battery-operated jeep with bump-and-go  
action. The antenna lights up—and  
off you go!



**Racing Rover**

3 years upward  
Pull-apart friction-powered jeep.  
Roar off into the countryside.  
Go exploring!



**Beach Craft**

2-5 years  
Friction-powered plane with an engine  
that really moves. You'll be a real ace pilot!



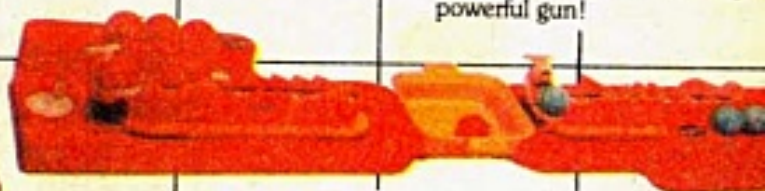
**Falcon**

3 years upward  
Pull-back action. Up, up, and away!  
Fly off to new and exciting places!



**Auto Rifle**

5-12 years  
Win every battle with this big,  
powerful gun!



**Carry-On Chef**

5 years upward  
Move your chef carefully. Help him  
get more cakes and win!



**Mobile Cars**

3 years upward  
Scaled-down models of famous sports cars.  
Zip! Zip! Zip! There they go!



# Come join the Uncle Leo Club!



Get any Leo toy, and you can become a member of the Uncle Leo Club. Hurry! Because you'll get one year's membership free, if yours is one of the first 25,000 applications received!



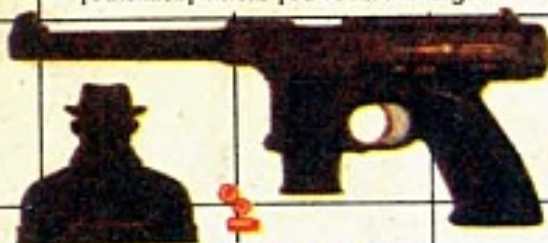
## Flying Discs

6 years upward  
Send your Flying Disc shooting beyond the moon and stars!



## Shoot-Out Gun

5 years upward  
Pow! Pow! Super-sticking darts show you exactly where you've hit the target.



## Mauser Pistol

8 years upward  
Realistic model of the famous Mauser Pistol!



## to Pistol

10 years  
apid firing action. Swing it up and shoot! You're a one-man army!



## Fighter Jet

3 years upward  
Pull-back mechanism. Go! Go! Go! Take off for battle!



## Mail Van

3-9 years  
Write a letter to your friend.... then take it yourself in your Mail Van!



## Martini Porsche

3 years upward  
Battery-operated sports car with touch 'n' turn action. Whee! You're the fastest on the road!



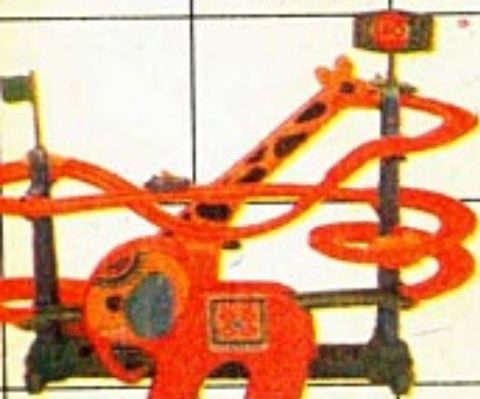
## Bull's Eye Gun

7 years upward  
Aim carefully ... shoot! Congrats — you've got the target!



## Flying Saucer Gun

5 years upward  
Shoots tiny flying saucers. Go into space ... be a star wars hero!



## Slide Ride

4 years upward  
Battery-operated roller coaster. Cars go up and down, round and round ... real fast!



## Chook-Chook Train

3 years upward  
Battery-operated train set. All line clear! Here comes the superfast express!



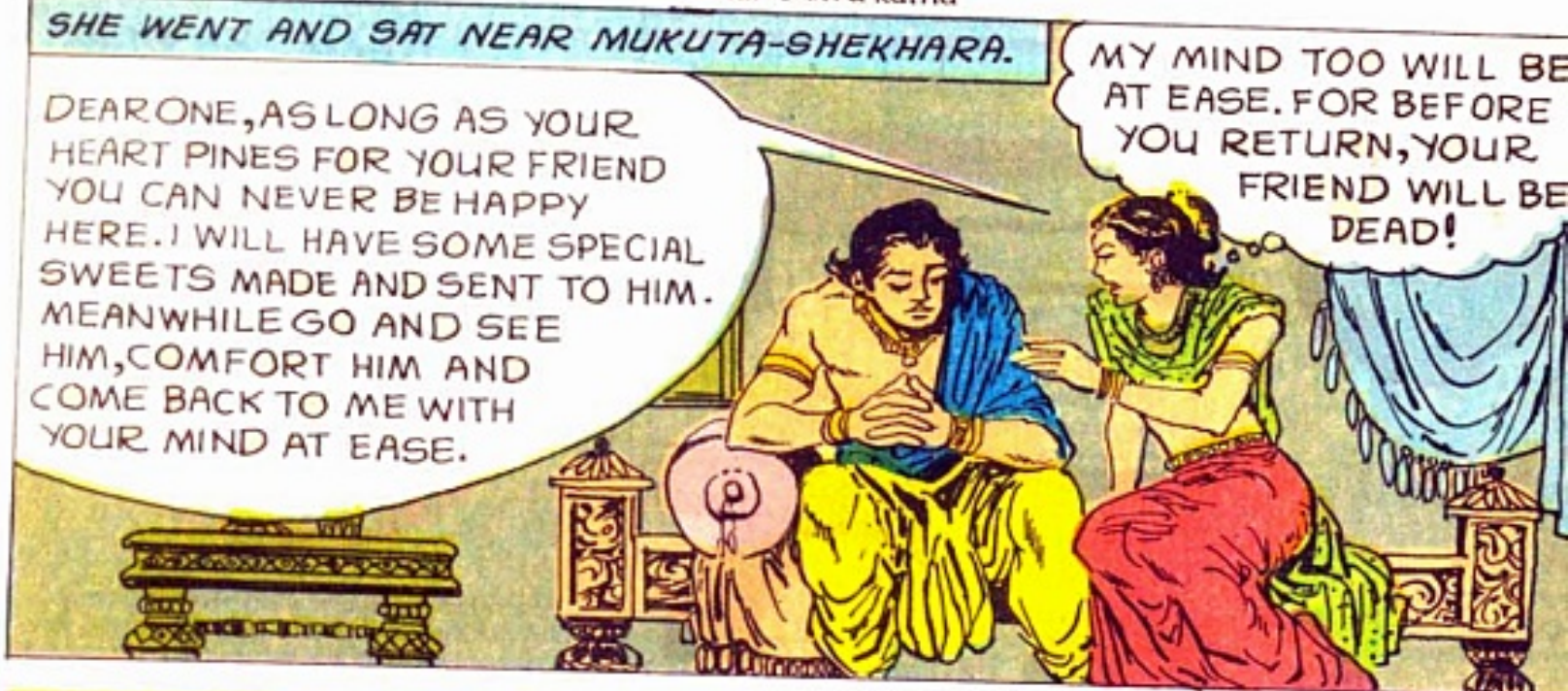
**A child's best friends!**



SHE WENT AND SAT NEAR MUKUTA-SHEKHARA.

DEAR ONE, AS LONG AS YOUR HEART PINES FOR YOUR FRIEND YOU CAN NEVER BE HAPPY HERE. I WILL HAVE SOME SPECIAL SWEETS MADE AND SENT TO HIM. MEANWHILE GO AND SEE HIM, COMFORT HIM AND COME BACK TO ME WITH YOUR MIND AT EASE.

MY MIND TOO WILL BE AT EASE. FOR BEFORE YOU RETURN, YOUR FRIEND WILL BE DEAD!



THE PRINCE IMMEDIATELY SET OUT FOR THE OLD WOMAN'S HOUSE.



HE WENT STRAIGHT INTO THE ROOM...



...AND EMBRACED HIS ASTONISHED COMPANION.

WELL! WELL! WELL! AT LONG LAST! IS ALL WELL?

IT COULDN'T BE BETTER. I HAVE A LOT TO TELL YOU.





HARDLY HAD THE TWO SETTLED DOWN WHEN THE SWEETS ARRIVED.



WELL NOW! WHO COULD HAVE SENT THESE?

IT IS PADMAVATI. SHE HAS HAD THEM SPECIALLY MADE FOR YOU.

BUT WHY?



THE PRINCE TOLD HIS COMPANION ABOUT ALL THAT HAD PASSED BETWEEN PADMAVATI AND HIM THAT EVENING.

COME, EAT SOME OF THE SWEETS AS WE TALK!



BUT HIS FRIEND REACTED STRANGELY.



O PRINCE, IT WAS NOT WISE OF YOU TO TALK TO PADMAVATI ABOUT ME. IN HER JEALOUSY SHE HAS PLANNED TO GET RID OF ME.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?







THE PRINCE COULD  
HARDLY SPEAK.

THA...THAT  
EVIL WOMAN.  
I WILL NOT GO  
BACK...NO,  
I WILL GO  
BACK AND  
STRANGLE  
THE LIFE  
OUT OF...

NO. YOU WILL NOT. SHE WAS  
PROMPTED BY JEALOUSY.  
IT WAS HER POSSESSIVE  
LOVE FOR YOU THAT  
MADE HER DO IT.  
SHE WAS AFRAID  
I WOULD TAKE YOU  
AWAY FROM HER.



AS SOON AS YOU SEE  
HER BE VERY CORDIAL.  
THEN WHEN SHE FALLS  
ASLEEP REMOVE HER  
JEWELRY, STRIKE HER  
ON HER LEFT FOOT  
WITH THIS TRIDENT,  
AND COME BACK  
TO ME.





REPEATING HIS FRIEND'S INSTRUCTIONS TO HIMSELF, THE PRINCE RETURNED THROUGH THE WICKET GATE...



...TO PADMAVATI.

HOW IS YOUR FRIEND? DID HE ENJOY THE SWEETS?

I DID NOT WAIT TO ASK HIM. SO ANXIOUS WAS I TO COME BACK TO YOU.



PADMAVATI WAS RELIEVED.

THEN HE SUSPECTS NOTHING. I AM SAVED!

IT IS LATE. I AM SLEEPY. LET US GO TO BED.

YOU SLEEP. I'LL SIT UP AND WATCH OVER YOU.



PADMAVATI LAY DOWN.

THE POISON MUST HAVE DONE ITS WORK BY NOW. SOON I SHALL BE THE ONLY ONE DEARER TO YOU THAN LIFE ITSELF.

SHE IS ALMOST ASLEEP. I MUST BE READY.

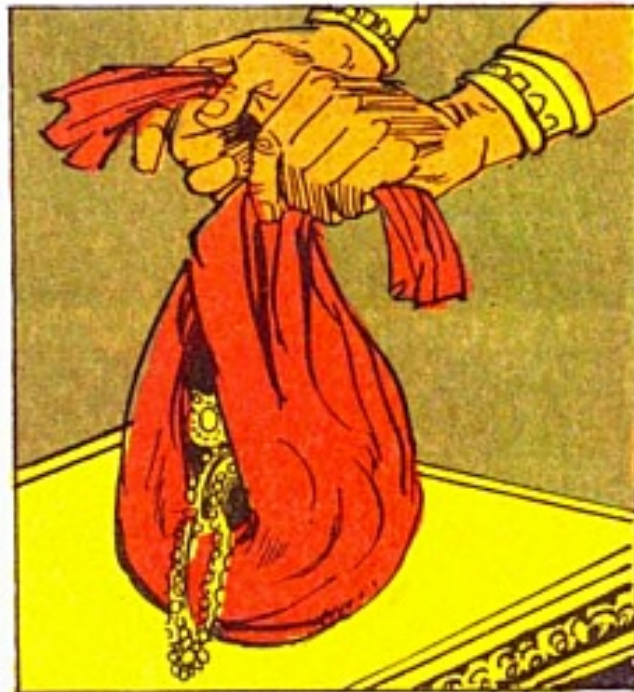




PADMAVATI WAS SOON FAST ASLEEP



ONE BY ONE HE REMOVED ALL OF THEM.



THEN HE RAISED THE TRIDENT...



...AND BROUGHT IT DOWN ON PADMAVATI'S LEFT FOOT.





WITHOUT STOPPING TO LOOK BACK,  
HE RAN OUT OF THE HOUSE...



... AND THROUGH THE WICKET GATE...



... BACK TO  
HIS FRIEND.

I HAVE DONE ALL  
YOU ASKED ME TO.  
THESE ARE THE  
ORNAMENTS. NOW  
WHAT?



FIRST, WE WILL  
DISGUISE  
OURSELVES AS  
SADHUS. I AS A  
GURU AND YOU  
AS MY  
DISCIPLE.

AS SOON AS THEY WERE DISGUISED—

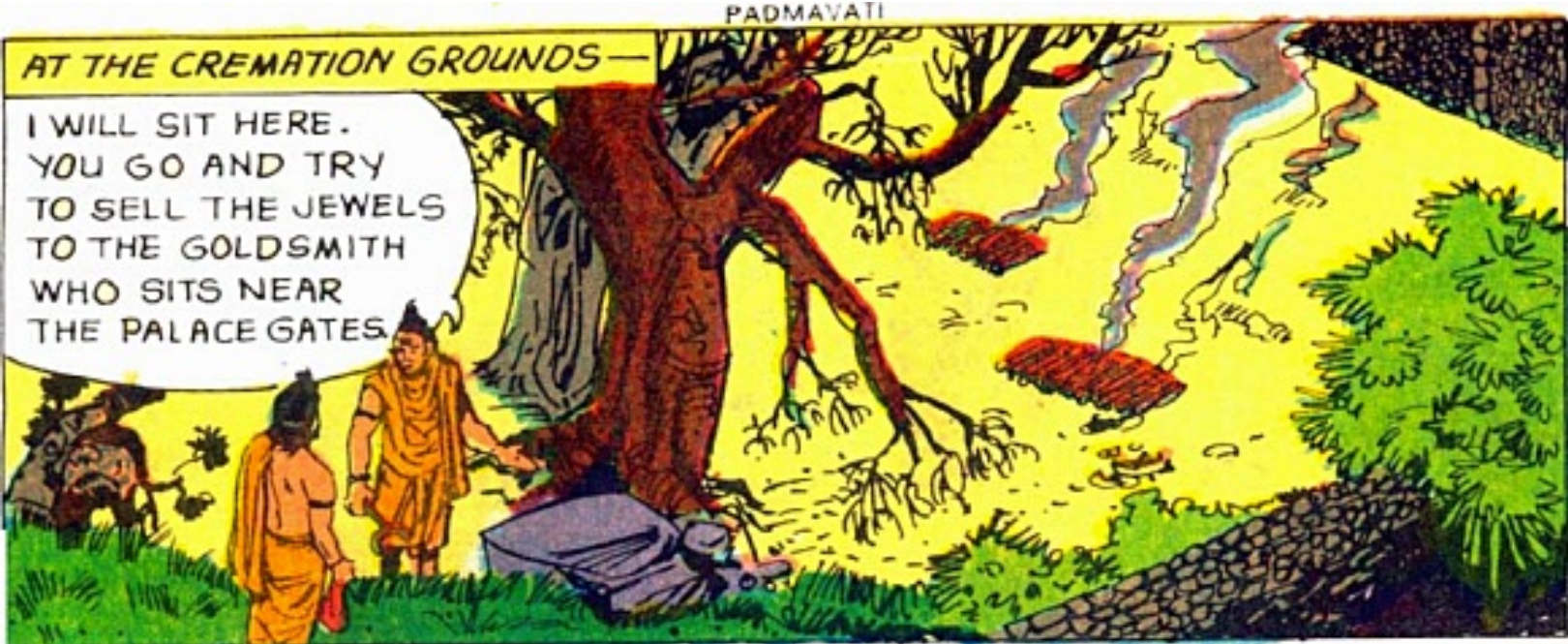


TAKE THE BUNDLE  
OF JEWELRY. WE  
ARE GOING TO THE  
CREMATION  
GROUNDS.



## AT THE CREMATION GROUNDS—

I WILL SIT HERE.  
YOU GO AND TRY  
TO SELL THE JEWELS  
TO THE GOLDSMITH  
WHO SITS NEAR  
THE PALACE GATES.



WHAT IF  
ANYONE  
SHOULD  
QUESTION  
ME?

BRING  
HIM TO  
ME.



THE PRINCE DID AS HE WAS TOLD AND STOOD  
BEFORE THE GOLDSMITH.

WHAT CAN I  
DO FOR YOU,  
O HOLY  
ONE?

I HAVE  
SOME  
JEWELRY  
TO SELL.



AS SOON AS THE GOLDSMITH  
OPENED THE BUNDLE —

WHY, THESE  
ARE THE  
ORNAMENTS  
I MADE FOR  
PRINCESS  
PADMAVATI!



HOW DID YOU COME  
BY THEM? TELL  
ME THE TRUTH  
OR ELSE...





BY THEN A LARGE CROWD HAD GATHERED OUTSIDE THE SHOP.

COME, LET US TELL THE KOTWAL.\*



WHEN THE KOTWAL HEARD THE NEWS—

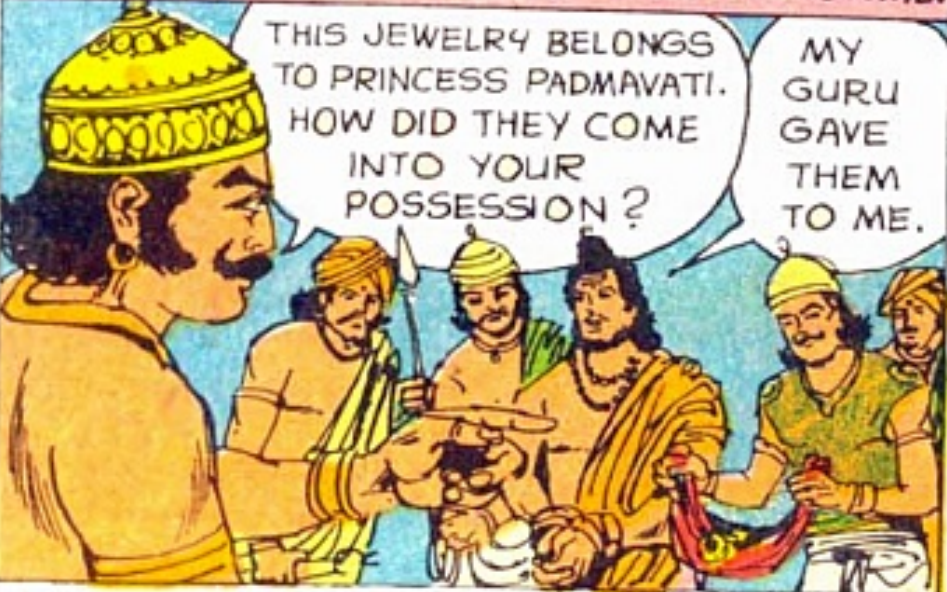
ARREST THE MAN AND BRING HIM TO ME WITH THE JEWELRY.



THE PRINCE WAS BROUGHT BEFORE THE KOTWAL.

THIS JEWELRY BELONGS TO PRINCESS PADMAVATI. HOW DID THEY COME INTO YOUR POSSESSION?

MY GURU GAVE THEM TO ME.



HOW DID HE GET THEM?

I DO NOT KNOW.



THE KOTWAL TURNED TO HIS MAN.

THEN HAVE HIM ARRESTED TOO AND BROUGHT HERE. WE WILL TAKE BOTH OF THEM TO HIS MAJESTY, THE KING.



AT THE COURT—

YOUR MAJESTY, THESE TWO MEN HAVE IN THEIR POSSESSION THE YOUNG PRINCESS'S JEWELRY.





THE KING WAS STARTLED BUT DID NOT SHOW IT. INSTEAD —

MASTER! HOW DID THESE JEWELS COME INTO YOUR HANDS?

ONE NEW-MOON NIGHT A WITCH CAME TO ME AT THE CREMATION GROUNDS TO PERFECT SOME SPELLS. I TOOK OFF HER ORNAMENTS AND LEFT A MARK WITH MY TRIDENT ON HER LEFT FOOT.

MY DAUGHTER A WITCH? NO! IT CANNOT BE!

YOU MAY GO NOW, MASTER. I'LL SEND FOR YOU IF I NEED YOU.

WHEN THE SADHU AND HIS DISCIPLE LEFT, THE KING SENT FOR HIS QUEEN.

LOOK CAREFULLY AT PADMAVATI'S LEFT FOOT AND SEE IF THERE ARE ANY MARKS ON IT.

THE QUEEN WENT AND RETURNED IN A SHORT WHILE.

THERE ARE THREE RED MARKS. THEY SEEM TO HAVE BEEN MADE BY A TRIDENT.

THEN IT IS TRUE. MY DAUGHTER IS A WITCH!

YOU MAY GO NOW.



THE KING THEN SENT FOR THE KOTWAL.

GO AND SEND  
THE SADHU  
TO ME.



WHEN THE KOTWAL LEFT—

IT IS NOT  
WISE TO  
DIVULGE ONE'S  
INTENTIONS,  
ONE'S FINANCIAL  
LOSSES AND  
ONE'S FAMILY  
SECRETS. SO I NEED  
NOT TELL ANYONE  
ABOUT MY DAUGHTER.



A LITTLE LATER, THE SADHU CAME.

O MASTER,  
TELL ME.  
HOW SHOULD  
A WICKED  
WOMAN BE  
PUNISHED?  
WHAT DO THE  
SCRIPTURES  
HAVE TO SAY  
ABOUT IT?

SHE  
SHOULD BE  
BANISHED FROM  
YOUR KINGDOM.





IT WAS ALMOST DAWN WHEN THE KING SENT  
FOR TWO OF HIS TRUSTED GUARDS.

LACE PADMAVATI  
IN A PALANQUIN  
AND LEAVE HER  
IN THE JUNGLES  
AT THE BORDER  
OF THE  
KINGDOM.



THE GUARDS WERE AGHAST.

B...BUT YOUR  
MAJESTY...  
WH-WHAT HAS...

I WANT  
NO QUESTIONS  
ASKED. AND...NO  
ONE SHOULD  
LEARN OF THIS.



THE FRIGHTENED GUARDS DID AS THEY WERE COMMANDED.



ALAS! WHY  
HAVE I BEEN  
TREATED THUS?  
TRULY, MY FATHER  
BEARS ME NO LOVE.  
WHY DIDN'T I AGREE  
TO LEAVE THIS PALACE  
AND GO WITH MY  
PRINCE TO HIS KINGDOM?  
WHAT WILL HE  
DO TONIGHT WHEN  
HE DOES NOT  
SEE ME?



BUT UNKNOWN TO PADMAVATI HER PRINCE AND HIS FRIEND, NOW IN THEIR OWN GARB, WERE FOLLOWING AT A SAFE DISTANCE.



TOWARDS EVENING —



ALAS! WHAT WILL BECOME OF ME?









# Quiz

INDIA-7

Compiled by: Shobha Rao

## I FIND THE MAJOR MISTAKE IN THIS ILLUSTRATION.

INDRA'S MOUNT, AIRAVATA, BEGAN TO RUN AMUCK ON THE BATTLEFIELD.



## II WHO DOES THE CHILD GROW UP TO BE?

HER NOSE LED HER TO THE BUNDLES OF FLESH.

WHAT! ONE BODY  
RENT IN TWO. I'LL JOIN  
THE HALVES. IT WILL  
BE EASIER TO  
CARRY ONE BUNDLE.



III

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

... SATYAVATI TOOK THE ONE MEANT  
FOR HER MOTHER.





# IV FILL IN THE BLANK.

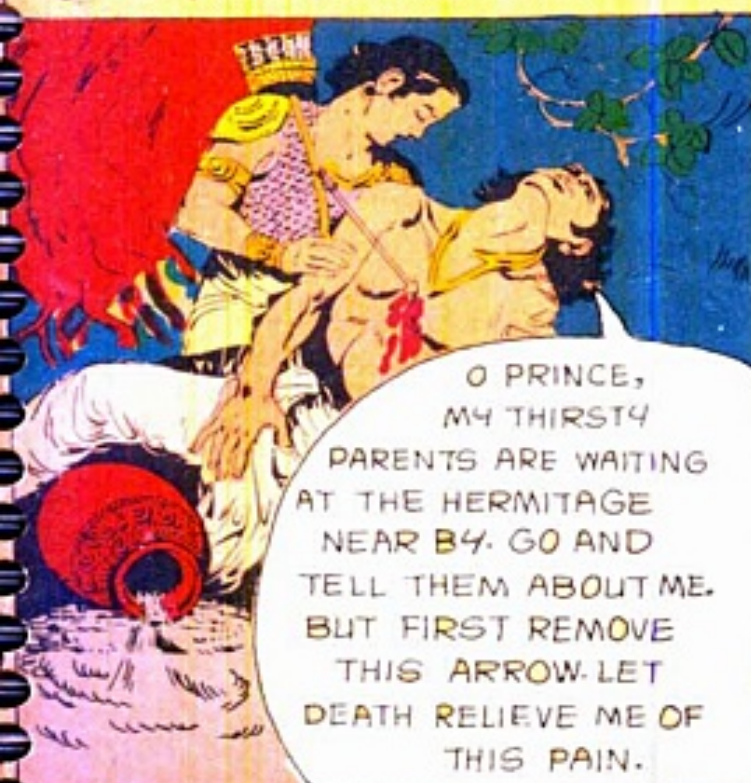
VISHWAMITRA'S RAGE ONCE AGAIN GOT THE BETTER OF HIM.

RAMBHA, — — — — .



# V IDENTIFY THE PERSONS SHOWN.

THEN, HE RAN TO THE SPOT FROM WHERE THE HUMAN CRY HAD COME. AS SOON AS THE DYING YOUTH SAW HIM —



O PRINCE,  
MY THIRSTY  
PARENTS ARE WAITING  
AT THE HERMITAGE  
NEAR BY. GO AND  
TELL THEM ABOUT ME.  
BUT FIRST REMOVE  
THIS ARROW. LET  
DEATH RELIEVE ME OF  
THIS PAIN.

## RULES

1. Every entry must be accompanied with the coupon given on this page.
2. The first 50 all-correct entries received in our office will each receive 2 titles of Amar Chitra Katha.
3. Every correct entry will receive a green certificate.
4. Every one-error entry will receive a blue certificate.
5. Any participant who collects three green or six blue certificates till Oct. 1987 will receive a free subscription of Amar Chitra Katha for six months.
6. Any participant who collects four green or eight or more blue certificates till Oct. 1987 will receive a free subscription of Amar Chitra Katha for one year.
7. Any participant sending in five or more all correct entries till Oct. 1987 will be awarded a cash prize of Rs. 5,000/-. If there is more than one claimant the prize will be equally distributed among those who have sent five or more all-correct entries.
8. If we do not receive five all-correct entries from anyone till Oct. 1987, the prize will be distributed among those who have sent in four all-correct entries.
9. The decision of the judges will be final and binding.
10. While claiming your prize you must quote the reference number given at the base of the certificate won by you.

## Mail your entries to:

### QUIZ INDIA

INDIA BOOK HOUSE PVT. LTD.

Mahalaxmi Chambers, 22, Bhulabhai Desai Road, Bombay 400 026

Giving: Name, Age, Address, Answers

Last date for receiving entries: 30.5.1987

## Answers to Quiz India — 6

- I. A music teacher and his pupil on the left, Purandara Dasa on the right.
- II. Yudhishtira, Bheema, Arjuna, Nakula Sahadeva and a brahmana.
- III. Devas, Asuras, the Ocean of Milk, Mount Mandara, Naga Vasuki, Surabhi, Uchchhaishrava, Apsaras, Parijata, Varuni.
- IV. Sher Shah Suri
- V. Tripura



PARLE

# RAM & SHYAM

## in Encounters With An Alien

AS RAM & SHYAM TAKE A WALK ON A DESERTED BEACH, THE SKY SUDDENLY LIGHTS UP.



THEY SEE A HUGE BALL LANDING FAR ON THE BEACH.



WOW! THAT LOOKS LIKE A SPACESHIP!

AS THEY APPROACH IT, THE SPACESHIP TAKES OFF AT JET SPEED AND IMMEDIATELY THEY HEAR A STRANGE SOUND BEHIND THE BUSHES.



WHAT THEY SEE ASTOUNDS THEM.



HE LOOKS LIKE AN ALIEN!

AND HE'S FRIGHTENED.

LET'S KEEP HIM AS OUR PET.

WE'LL CALL HIM OP. LET'S GIVE HIM SOME POPPINS.



UNSURE IF THE ALIEN WOULD HARM THEM, THEY KEEP THE POPPINS SWEETS ON THE GROUND AND WATCH HIS REACTION.



OP SLOWLY COMES CLOSER TO THE POPPINS SWEETS, PICKS ONE AND EATS IT. LOVES IT. ONE BY ONE HE FINISHES THEM ALL.



TO RAM & SHYAM'S SURPRISE, THIS INTELLIGENT ALIEN ACTUALLY COMES FORWARD AND SHAKES HANDS WITH THEM.

OP WE'RE SO GLAD WE CAN BE FRIENDS!

POPPINS!



Lickable Likeable Lovable

PARLE  
**POPPINS**

PARLE  
**POPPINS**





Vetala Stories

# PADMAVATI

No. 501

PICTORIAL CLASSICS FOR YOUNG AND OLD

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## CHATURANG KATHA

King Vikramaditya of Ujjaini had agreed to assist an exacting ascetic at certain midnight rituals of magic and necromancy. As a part of this, he had to fetch a *vetala* (a spirit or demon found usually inhabiting a corpse), observing strict silence all the while.

The gruesome task also turned out to be an extremely difficult one. The *vetala* turned out to be a story-teller who demanded an answer to riddles he posed at the end of every story. If the king kept silent, knowing the answer, the *vetala* would break his head into a thousand pieces. If he spoke, the *vetala* would fly back to his tree.

How Vikramaditya patiently answered the questions and how he ultimately won the favour of that very *vetala* go to make up the twenty-five stories of the *Vetala Panchavimshati*, many of which we will be presenting in our CHATURANG KATHA series.

These stories were originally written in Sanskrit some time between the eleventh and thirteenth centuries.

Editor: Lakshmi Lal

Script. Lakshmi Lal

Illustrations: H.S. Chavan



# PADMAVATI



THE BRAVE, MAGNANIMOUS KING VIKRAMADITYA, TO OBLIGE ONE OF HIS SUBJECTS, AN ASCETIC, HAD AGREED TO FETCH A VETALA\* FOR HIM FROM A TREE NOT FAR FROM WHERE THE ASCETIC INTENDED PERFORMING A SACRIFICE.

ON THE WAY VIKRAMADITYA REFUSED TO UTTER A WORD BECAUSE IF HE DID THE VETALA WOULD FLY BACK TO HIS TREE.



I SHALL TELL YOU A STORY. AT THE END OF IT I WILL ASK YOU A QUESTION. IF KNOWING THE ANSWER YOU REFUSE TO GIVE IT, I WILL BREAK YOUR HEAD INTO A THOUSAND PIECES.

THE VETALA BEGAN HIS STORY.



PRINCE MUKUTA-SHEKHARA OF VARANASI WAS OUT ON A HUNT ONE DAY. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS CLOSE COMPANION, THE MINISTER'S SON.



SUDDENLY, IN A CLEARING IN THE JUNGLE THEY CAME UPON A TANK.



THEY WASHED THEIR HANDS AND FEET...



...AND WENT INTO THE TEMPLE.





WHEN THE HORSEMEN NEARED THE PALANQUIN-





NOW ANSWER MY QUESTION. REMEMBER, IF YOU KNOW THE ANSWER AND YET KEEP QUIET, I WILL BREAK YOUR HEAD INTO A THOUSAND PIECES. WHO IS THE GUILTY PERSON? AND WHY?

I MUST ANSWER. YET THE MOMENT I SPEAK, THE VETALA WILL ESCAPE.

THE KING. FOR BANISHING HIS DAUGHTER WITHOUT MAKING SURE OF THE FACTS.



THE MOMENT VIKRAMADITYA BROKE HIS SILENCE, THE VETALA FLEW OFF HIS SHOULDER...



...BACK TO THE TREE.

NEVER MIND, MY GOOD FELLOW. I WILL COME AFTER YOU AND TAKE YOU RIGHT BACK.







Daddy!  
Read me a  
Story.



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The first fans date back to 3000 B.C. The Chinese made them of dyed pheasant and peacock feathers mounted on a handle.



Folding fans were invented in Japan around 670 A.D. Blades of carved wood, ivory or mother-of-pearl were fastened by a pin or rivet, and covered with pleated and stretched palm, silk, paper or feathers.



In ancient India, elaborate fans were an important religious and civil emblem.



The 'Punkah' or large screen fan of Mediaeval India was hung in rooms and manipulated by means of ropes by servants.

Portuguese traders brought the folding fan to Europe in the 16th century, and soon the carved ivory brise and ornate fans mounted with lace, parchment and painted skin were very popular.



Modern industry brought the mechanical fans run on kerosene...



and on electric power like the fans we use today.



NEW FAN  
LIGHTS  
PALLADIUM  
BAGS  
PEDIA  
1000

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and a promising future

